

Status of Central Agriculture University, Imphal

2572. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status and condition of the Central Agriculture University, Imphal, Manipur;

(b) the number of colleges affiliated to this university; and

(c) the steps taken by the Centre to develop the university?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Central Agricultural University, Imphal is a statutory body established by an act of Parliament i.e. Central Agricultural University Act, 992 (No. 40 of 1992). The University having its headquarter at Imphal has seven constituent colleges under its jurisdiction out of which six colleges namely College of Agriculture at Imphal, Manipur; College of Veterinary Sciences & A.H., Selesih, Mizoram; College of Fisheries, Lembucherra, Agartala; College of Horticulture & Forestry, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh; College of Home Science, Tura, Meghalaya and College of Agricultural Engineering & Post Harvest Technology, Gangtok, Sikkim have already been established. The remaining one College viz. College of Post Graduate Studies, Barapani, Meghalaya shall be functional from the next academic session. The University is undertaking teaching, research and extension activities for development of campuses of the University in particular and North Eastern Hill Region in general. The University does not have provision of granting affiliation to any college.

(c) The University is wholly funded by the Central Government. The Centre has approved a budget outlay of Rs. 283.18 crores in X Plan for the University. The Government of India monitors and directs the University to carry out its activities according to the provisions of Act and Statutes of the University.

Promoting Bio-fertilizers

†2573. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a serious crisis has cropped up the human health and environment, etc. in the country due to chemicals based agriculture and depleting land fertility;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have taken a decision to introduce bio-farming as an alternative to discourage chemicals based agriculture and to encourage bio-farming vigorously;

(c) whether Government have decided to adopt a strategy for making the process of certification of bio-products easy, cheap and easily available; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The average per hectare consumption of fertilizers in the country is 104.50 kg. This level of consumption does not seem to have any ill effect of human health, environment and soil fertility. However, in some areas excessive use of chemical fertilizers may cause reduction in soil organic matter and soil productivity.

(b) To discourage chemical based agriculture, the Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) on soil test based balanced and judicious use of fertilizers in conjunction with organic, source of nutrients like Farm Yard Manure (FYM), Green Manure, Organic Manure (Compost), Phospho-compost, Vermi-compost, Bio-fertilizers etc.

To encourage bio-farming (organic farming) for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic produce in the country, the Government is also implementing Central Sector Scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" (NPOF) to encourage use of bio inputs like manure, compost and microbial inoculants.

(c) and (d) In order to adopt cost effective certification process, the Government is encouraging group certification through accredited certifying agencies following Internal Control System (ICS). Besides, National Programme of Organic Production (NPOP) standards have been accepted as equivalent to European Union (EU) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) which will reduce the cost of certification.

At present 11 accredited certifying agencies in the country for certifying organic products.